

**REMARKS**

Claims 1 and 3-7 are pending in the present application and are rejected. Claims 1 and 3-7 are herein amended. New claims 8 and 9 are added herein.

**Applicants' Response to Objections to the Drawings**

First, the Office Action indicates that the drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, it is the position of the Office Action that the "jet water supply portion" recited in claim 1 must be shown. The Office Action recognizes that jet water supply portion 106 is illustrated in the third embodiment (Figure 4-16), but is not illustrated in the first and second embodiments (Figures 1-3). Furthermore, the Office Action indicates that the spout mouth 16 illustrated in Figure 1 appears to be similar to the jet water supply portion.

In response, it is noted that claims 1 and 3-7 correspond to the structure disclosed in Figures 4-16, which is the third embodiment. In response, Applicants respectfully submit that jet water supply portion 106 is illustrated in at least Figure 6, which corresponds to the claimed embodiment, and need not be illustrated in every drawing. Applicants respectfully submit that this illustration is sufficient to comply with 37 CFR 1.83(a). Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Next, the Office Action objects to the drawings because common numbers are not used to refer to the same object. For example, reference numeral 13 and reference numeral 105 both refer to a "trap drain." The Office Action requires that the part names reflect this by designating

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them as, for example, “third embodiment trap drain 105” and “first and second embodiment trap drain 13.” In response, Applicants herewith submit a substitute specification which incorporates the required corrections. Therefore, submission of corrected drawings is not necessary. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

#### **Applicants’ Response to Objections to the Specification**

First, Applicants note that the title of the invention is listed as “Toilet Bowl Device” on the publication of the application. Applicants request that the title be amended to be listed as “Toilet Device” as listed on the transmittal letter filed with the application.

With respect to claims 3-5 and 7, it is the position of the Office Action that these claims contain subject matter which is beyond the scope of the specification. The Office Action indicates that the claims recite water being supplied to either the rim water supply portion or the jet water supply portion for “a predetermined period of time.” The Office Action notes that the specification provides specific durations for these time periods, such as Rim Wash Mode 1 being 25 seconds. Accordingly, it is the position of the Office Action that a “predetermined period of time” could be any duration of time, and therefore the claims are broader in scope than the specification. In response, Applicants respectfully submit that the specific time periods given in the specification are merely examples, as stated in the specification at page 34, lines 9-15. These time periods may be modified and still be within the scope of the specification.

The Office Action indicates that page 9, line 13 (actually, page 19, line 13) refers to a “sixth embodiment.” However, the disclosure only contains three embodiments. Applicants

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note that the aforementioned substitute specification corrects this passage to discuss the “third embodiment.”

Finally, the Office Action also indicates that there are several grammatical and idiomatic errors in the specification. The Office Action provides examples of these errors. Applicants respectfully submit that the aforementioned substitute specification corrects these errors.

#### **Applicants’ Response to Claim Objections**

The Office Action objects to claims 5 and 7 as having insufficient antecedent basis. In response, Applicants respectfully submit that the amended claims provide for proper antecedent basis. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

#### **Applicants’ Response to Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112**

**Claims 1 and 3-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement.**

The Office Action indicates that the “control means for” is presumed to invoke 35 U.S.C. §112, sixth paragraph. The Office Action notes that because the specification does not describe the structural components necessary to control operation of the water supply means, the claims are not supported by an enabling disclosure.

It is noted that the “control means” 28 is briefly discussed in the specification at page 7, lines 16-20. However, the structure of the “control means” is not disclosed. Therefore,

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Applicants herein amend the claims in order to eliminate the “means-plus-function” language, instead reciting a “control portion.” Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

**Claims 1 and 3-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.**

First, the Office Action indicates that the claims are rejected because the term “orients,” as used in claim 1, line 4, fails to appropriately describe how the features of the jet water supply portion and the trap drainage portion are aligned with respect to each other. In response, Applicants herein amend claim 1 in order to recite that the jet water supply portion is disposed at one end of the trap drainage portion. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Second, the Office Action again states that the specification does not recite structural components for the “control means.” As noted above, Applicants herein amend the claims to recite a “control portion.” Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

**Applicants’ Response to Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102**

**Claims 1 and 3-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Makita et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,204,999).**

It is the position of the Office Action that Makita discloses the invention as claimed. The Office Action states that when an input switch is engaged in Makita, the controller supplies water to a jet water supply portion and to a trap drainage portion for a period of time sufficient to allow

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the bowl face to be discharged. The Office Action also states that Makita discloses a preliminary flushing where water is supplied into the trap drainage portion for a period of time longer than the time for washing the toilet after use.

In response, Applicants note that the “input switch” which the Office Action refers to is a switch for starting flushing, not a switch for cleaning as recited. Therefore, Applicants herein amend claim 1 in order to recite both *a flushing switch* and *a cleaning switch*. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Furthermore, Applicants also herein add new claims 8 and 9. These claims recite the sequence of steps used to clean the toilet device. Specifically, new claim 8 recites that when a switch for cleaning is operated before a predetermined period of time elapses, the method proceeds to a next step. Makita does not disclose or suggest such a method. In fact, Makita is only directed at *flushing*, not *cleaning*, and only recites predetermined periods of time for particular functions. There is no disclosure in Makita that an additional operation of a switch may shorten a particular function, and cause the toilet device to move on to the next step. Favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

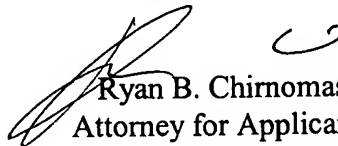
For at least the foregoing reasons, the claimed invention distinguishes over the cited art and defines patentable subject matter. Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

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Should the Examiner deem that any further action by applicants would be desirable to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone applicants' undersigned attorney.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,  
**WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP**

  
Ryan B. Chirnomas  
Attorney for Applicants  
Registration No. 56,527  
Telephone: (202) 822-1100  
Facsimile: (202) 822-1111

RBC/jl

Enclosures: Substitute specification (clean and marked-up copies)